IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 19, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLAY made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 49.]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred "A bill to provide for the construction of a custom-house, court-house, and post office in Apalachicola, in the State of Florida," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That in their opinion it is inexpedient to make an appropriation for a custom house at that place. They also herewith present, as part of their report, a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury on the same subject, (A.)

That portion of the bill providing for the construction of a court-house and post office not being appropriately referred to this committee, is hereby reported back to the Senate for their appropriate reference.

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, January 26, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a "Bill to provide for the construction of a court-house, post office, and custom-house in Apalachicola, in the State of Florida," and requesting to be furnished with any information the department has in its possession, and its views respecting the same.

In reply I have to say, that the revenue collected at that port for the year ending June 30, 1855, was \$3,828 22, and the expenses of collection \$5,959 40; for the year ending June 30, 1856, the revenue collected was \$5,566 95, and expenses of collection \$5,521 60; and the expenses of collection for the year ending June 30, 1857, was \$4,850 94, while the revenue collected was but \$4,148 26. It appearing from this statement that the expenses of collecting the revenue exceed the

receipts therefrom, and the business of the port requiring but limited accommodations for its transaction, the department is of the opinion that it is not expedient to erect a custom-house at that port.

The bill is herewith returned.

The "Bill for the construction of a marine hospital at Apalachicola" has not been received at the department.

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I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB. Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. C. CLAY, Jr., Chairman Committee of Commerce, U. S. Senate.